



Senate Majority Communications

NEWS RELEASE

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Senator-elect Van Woerkom to Chair Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee

Lansing – Senator-elect Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, was named chair of the 2003 Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee today by incoming Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming.

“As the current member of the House Agriculture and Resource Committee, Senator-elect Van Woerkom has the experience Michigan needs on this important committee,” Sikkema said.

The committee will handle legislation on two of Michigan most important industries. Agriculture is currently the second largest industry in the state, bringing \$37 billion in revenues to the Michigan economy.

Tourism is also a major state industry, contributing \$12.5 billion to the economy.

“Agriculture and tourism are both critical to the economic development of our state,” Van Woerkom said. “I will work to expand both industries to create new jobs and diversify our state economy.”

Van Woerkom has served in the Michigan House of Representatives since 1999. He currently serves on the House committees of Agriculture and Resource Management, Commerce, Education, and Insurance and Financial Services. He also serves as the Chair of the Commerce Subcommittee on Tourism and Travel.

Van Woerkom will be sworn in on January 8, 2003, as State Senator of the 34th District, representing Mason, Oceana, Newaygo and Muskegon counties.

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Comments by Sen.-elect Van Woerkom on his appointment as Chairman of Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee are available on the House Republican Newsline at (517) 373-0111.